

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MASERU IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SF, WA

SUBJECT: LESOTHO SYMPOSIUM: STATEMENT ON NAMIBIA

REFERENCE: MASERU 1544

1. AFTER COORDINATION WITH UK AND FRG DELEGATIONS, USDEL
SHOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE FOLLOWING
STATEMENT ON NAMIBIA.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MR. CHAIRMAN: IT IS PARTICULARLY APPRO-
PRIATE THAT THE SYMPOSIUM CHOSE THE BIRTHDAY OF NELSON
MANDELA TO CONSIDER THE CONDITIONS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO HEAR THE WORDS AND UNDERSTAND
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THE SUFFERINGS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO THE
BRUTALITIES OF PRISON. NELSON MANDELA IS ONE OF THE GREAT
FIGURES IN THE HISTORY OF THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA. HIS CONTRIBUTIONS WILL MARK A PROUD
CHAPTER WHEN THE STORY OF THAT STRUGGLE IS FINALLY WRITTEN.

IN THE CASE OF NAMIBIA ALSO, MANY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT

LEADERS OF ITS MOVEMENT TOWARD INDEPENDENCE ARE OR HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED FOR THEIR POLITICAL BELIEFS. HAPPILY, RECENT DEVELOPMENTS PROMISE THE RELEASE OF ALL NAMIBIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.

I REFER, OF COURSE, TO THE PROPOSAL OF THE WESTERN CONTACT GROUP FOR A SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA, WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY SOUTH AFRICA APRIL 25 AND BY SWAPO ON JULY 12. DURING THE FIFTEEN MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH PRECEDED THIS AGREEMENT THE WESTERN FIVE, KEEPING IN MIND THE PROVISIONS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385, HELD FREQUENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE MATTER OF PRISONERS HELD BY BOTH SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO. IN ITS FINAL FORM THE PROPOSAL PROVIDES THAT, WITH ADOPTION OF A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION APPROVING THE AGREEMENT, THE RELEASE OF NAMIBIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS, WHEREVER HELD, IS TO BEGIN AND WILL BE COMPLETED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS REGARD, AND AS EVIDENCE OF THE GOOD FAITH OF THE PARTIES, I POINT WITH APPRECIATION TO THE RELEASE OF SEVERAL SWAPO MEMBERS HELD ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA AND THE RELEASE BY SOUTH AFRICA OF THREE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNAL SECTION OF SWAPO TO PERMIT THEM TO ATTEND THE DISCUSSIONS IN LUANDA WHERE FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL WAS REACHED.

IN LIGHT OF THE AGREED SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL WHICH INCLUDES VERY SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL NAMIBIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLITICAL PRISONERS, WHAT SHOULD BE THE POSITION OF THIS SYMPOSIUM ON THIS ASPECT OF OUR AGENDA? THE US BELIEVES THAT THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA AND OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CAN BEST BE SERVED BY THE PROMPT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL. THEREFORE, WE URGE THAT THIS SYMPOSIUM TAKE FAVORABLE NOTE OF THE PROPOSAL AND GO ON RECORD URGING SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVAL AND THE RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS TERMS. END TEXT.

3. FYI: ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT WAS REACHED IN LUANDA, SITUATION WILL BE FRAGILE UNTIL SC APPROVAL AND THE BEGINNING OF IMPLEMENTATION. WE WOULD STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY TENDENTIOUS STATEMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE SYMPOSIUM WHICH WOULD BE LIKELY TO ROCK THE BOAT. CHRISTOPHER

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